



# Converse

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue No. 7- Summer 2014

Dear Citizens of Converse,

I would like to thank the citizens of Converse for the opportunity to continue serving as your Mayor for the past 7 years. As I commence my 8<sup>th</sup> year as Mayor of Converse, it is with great enthusiasm & respect for the citizens of Converse and the Northeast Metrocom that I continue to serve this community. I continue to serve as the Chairman of the Northeast Partnership for Economic Development, Chairman of the Greater Bexar County Council of Cities, President of the Judson ISD Education Foundation, Executive Board member for Build San Antonio Green, Executive Board member for the Bexar County Regional Watershed Management Program and Board member for the 2013 JISD Bond Oversight Committee.



Like all cities in Texas, we are being challenged by a severe drought. As directed by the Edwards Aquifer Authority, we have implemented our Emergency Water Conservation Stage III plan. We are confident that if all our residents do their part to conserve water we will overcome these challenges. We urge all our residents to please conserve water. We continue moving Converse to the next millennium. Our city is financially sound as indicated on our recent Audit Report and every effort will be made to maintain a balanced budget for 2015.

Our City Council, City Staff & City Employees have worked diligently to provide the citizens of Converse with the best quality services possible. As we commence 2014, it is with great anticipation that we look forward to an exciting year for the City of Converse. We continue to enjoy one of the safest communities in Bexar County thanks to the proactive approaches taken by our Police, Fire, Utilities, Public Works, Human Resources, Economic Development Corporation, Municipal Court and Finance Departments. We recently completed a comprehensive Strategic Plan for 2014 that outlines the mission, vision & development plan of Converse for the next 5 to 10 years. Please visit the city website at [www.conversetx.net](http://www.conversetx.net) to view the 2014 Converse Strategic Plan.

The San Antonio-Bexar Metropolitan Planning Organization recently approved an \$8.5 million dollar project in partnership with the City of Converse to widen FM1516 from FM 78 to FM 1976 to 5 lanes estimated for the year 2016. The FM 1604 Roadway Expansion Project from Lower Seguin Rd. to IH-10 is well underway, FM 1604 will be expanded from a two-lane roadway to a four-lane divided highway. This new \$29 million dollar "Pass Through" Project initiated by Bexar County is estimated for completion in the fall of 2015. We are happy to report that we have secured another TXDOT road project at the intersection of FM 1604 & FM 78. This new \$3.2 million dollar project is expected to commence on February 2015 and will undergo extensive improvements by TXDOT to increase the safe expeditious flow of traffic adjacent to

**(Con't from Page 1)**

Randolph A.F.B. New streetlights on Toepperwein Road from Kitty Hawk Road to the Converse-Live Oak city limits have been completed.

The Converse Economic Development Corporation (EDC) in partnership with the city has completed an extensive Economic Impact Study on the FM 1604 corridor. This study will enhance responsible economic & residential growth within the FM 1604 corridor. Our EDC in partnerships with the Build San Antonio Green Organization has conducted several proactive efforts to educate our residents on energy conservation efforts. Our new Judson ISD Elementary School Bond project in the Copperfield Subdivision is on budget and due to open its doors this August 2014.

On April 1, 2014 the City Council appointed Police Chief Rick Jamison as the new Interim City Manager until further notice. Chief Jamison is an outstanding 30-year professional veteran of the Converse Police Department and I am confident that he will continue to move this great city forward.

We encourage all citizens to attend our City Council meetings, which are held at 7:00 pm on the first and third Tuesdays of every month. Your City Council, City Staff, & Employees will continue to work together as ONE COHESIVE TEAM.... for one common GOAL... to make Converse a better place to live, work and raise a family.

If you have any complaints, concerns, questions, or suggestions please contact me anytime at 210-658-5356 (office), 210-787-7295 (cell) or email me at [mayorsuarez@conversetx.net](mailto:mayorsuarez@conversetx.net). Please stop by and visit me at "MAYOR'S CALL" on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of every month from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. (City Hall Conference Room/ 405 S. Seguin)...**NO APPOINTMENT REQUIRED.**

Let's all make a difference together! We look forward to hearing from everyone very soon!

My Best Regards to all,

Al Suarez, Converse Mayor

**For a full calendar including meetings and public events,  
please visit us on the web at [www.conversetx.net](http://www.conversetx.net).**

**City Council**

Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month  
7:00 pm, 402 S. Seguin

***There is a time provided for citizens to speak at every meeting.***

**Building & Standards**

Meets as needed  
6:00 pm, 405 S. Seguin

**EDC**

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month  
6:30 pm, 405 S. Seguin

**Planning & Zoning**

Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month  
7:00 pm, 405 S. Seguin

**Mayor's Call**

Held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays  
8:00 am - 10:00 am  
405 S. Seguin

**Parks & Recreation**

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month  
6:30 pm, 405 S. Seguin

## Streets – 659-9513

Street Department has been busy replacing concrete from water breaks and repairing the sidewalk tripping hazards Citywide. They have been assisting the Park/Pool Department with the renovation of the swimming pool snack bar and preparing for this pool season. Our Streets Crew Leader has obtained their herbicide license and will now be able to maintain the weeds in the City's right-of ways, parks & city facilities. In the next following months, the crew will be busy chip sealing, beginning in the month of June, July and August.

## Grounds – 659-9513

Grounds Department has been busy with brush pickup and picking up the broken tree branches off the streets and yards of our citizens due to this last rainstorm. The crew has also been maintaining the City by weed eating the right of ways. Another one of our crew member in this department has also obtained their herbicide license and will now be able to maintain the weeds in the City's right-of ways, parks & city facilities.

## Parks – 659-9513

Park/Pool Department is busy getting the pool ready for the 2014 season. **Pool opening day is Saturday, May 24, 2014 Memorial Day weekend.** We have been renovating the snack bar and putting fresh paint in our pool area. Thank you to our Streets department for their help & hard work. We look forward to a great pool season!

North Park has received new items this year that include mile markers for the walking trail, new water fountains/doggie fountains and benches along the trail. The basketball courts are also getting some new paint along with shuffle board equipment.

## Utility Billing – 658-1965

The City of Converse Utility Billing Department would like to give you some friendly reminders about garbage and bulk pick-ups.

### Garbage

- Trash containers must be placed out no later than 7 AM on the morning of pick-up.
- The routes have changed recently, so your address may be serviced earlier or later than normal.
- If your service is ever missed, please call the Utility Billing Department the next morning so that we can coordinate pick-up.
- The only holidays observed for garbage and recycling pick up are Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
- Ninety-six gallon trash and recycling bins are available to rent. Please call the Utility Billing Department.
- Examples of items that cannot be placed in your garbage can for pickup are: tree limbs, leaves, anything hazardous materials, fluorescent light bulbs, anything over 50 lbs, or batteries.

### Bulk

- Bulk pick-up is once a month starting on the third Monday of the month. You must call the Utility Billing Department before noon on the Friday of the prior week to have your name placed on the list.
- Examples of items that cannot be picked up are: railroad ties, tree limbs, bricks, rocks, concrete, hazardous items, paint, tires, Freon, or any construction items.

If you have any questions or concerns with the garbage or bulk pick-up, please call the Utility Billing Department at (210) 658-1965 and we will be happy to assist you.



**Want to work for the City of Converse?  
Job opportunities are posted online at  
[www.conversetx.net](http://www.conversetx.net)**

## Stormwater - 658-3453

The City of Converse draws water from the Edward's Aquifer to our residents and businesses. Due to the current drought that the State of Texas has been experiencing over the past four (4) years, the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) has mandated Cities enact water conservation measures. The City of Converse has adopted Stage I through Stage IV water restrictions as a means towards water conservation. Please visit our website for details.

**REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING.** The fines for illegal dumping in the City of Converse are up to \$500.00 a day for each offense. If anyone or group would like to have a roadside clean up please contact the Storm Water Department and ask for Larry Moxley – the city could use your help. Let's keep the City of Converse safe and clean for the environment.



### Simple Ways for You to Help!

- Adjust Your Thermostat
- Weatherize Your House
- Use an Electric Lawn Mower
- Collect and Use Rainwater
- Use Native Plants
- Plant Shade Trees
- Leave Grass Clippings on the Lawn
- Pick Up Pet Poop
- Use Fewer and Better Pesticides and Fertilizers
- Mow in the Evening
- Avoid Over-Watering Your Lawn
- Fix Water Leaks
- Recycle!!!

For more ways to help, please visit [www.takecareoftexas.org](http://www.takecareoftexas.org).

## C I T Y C O U N C I L



**FRONT ROW:** Councilman Rick Davis, Mayor Al Suarez, Councilman Jon Lindgren  
**BACK ROW:** Councilwoman Deb James      Councilwoman Renee Paschall  
    Councilwoman Kathy Richel      Councilman Steve Brown

## Library - 659-4160

The Converse Public Library will be participating in the Collaborative Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is *Fizz Boom Read* geared towards getting children excited about science, technology, and reading! The kick-off party will be held **Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00**, where staff members will get children registered for the program and activity logs will be distributed. In addition, hot dogs, chips and lemonade will be served. Every Friday from June 13 to August 1 starting at 2:00 will be a Children's Special Event. The Event schedule is as follows:



**Magik Theatre presenting *Dr. Krash Und Bang* Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> 2:00**

**Bricks Academy presenting *Lego Racecars* Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> 2:00 \*ages 5 and up**

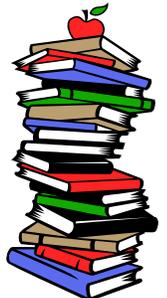
**UTSA Outreach presenting *Germs are Everywhere* Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup> 2:00 \*ages 5 and up – limited to 30 participants**

**Red the Clown and Friends Puppet Show Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup> 2:00**

**Weird Science with Ms. Dawn Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup> 2:00**

**Jody Robbins Magic Show Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup> 2:00**

The end of the Summer Reading Program Celebration will be **Friday, August 8 from 2:00- 4:00**. Your Activity Log is your ticket to get into the event, where prizes for completion and certificates will be distributed. Popcorn and the movie WALL-E will be shown. We are looking forward to a fun-filled reading adventure! Please come and join us!



## Fire Department - 658-8900

The Converse Fire Department would like to remind everyone to use caution in all their summer outdoor activities. Please remember that any fire left burning unattended can quickly spread so use caution when cooking outdoors. It is also illegal to burn trash or yard waste in an incorporated city. This is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and review your exit drills for your home. Please have a safe and happy summer.



## Warrant Department-658-0976

The City of Converse will be conducting a Warrant Round Up in the near future. The Converse Warrant Department allows for a grace period before a Warrant Round Up begins. During this time anyone with an outstanding warrant may come forward to settle outstanding debts and pay their fines without any additional penalties or being arrested. However, once the City of Converse begins the Warrant Round Up, **you can be arrested any time or place** including your home, work, school, or on a traffic stop.

If you have forgotten to pay a ticket or appear for a court date, you may have an outstanding warrant in your name. In addition to being arrested and spending time in jail, anyone with an unpaid fine or warrant can have a hold placed on the renewal of their driver's license until the warrant is resolved.

**Contact the Converse Warrant Department to see if you have any outstanding warrants.**

## Economic Development Corporation - 659-9163

The City of Converse Economic Development Corporation recently added several new Board members who were appointed by City Council. The EDC Board of Directors currently consists of President Marc Gilbert of Gilbert Consulting, Board Member and Interim City Manager Rick Jamison of the City of Converse, Dennis Foose of Nat G CNG Solutions, Matthew Moog of Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union and Rosa Gary of Judson ISD Administration. The EDC Board meets in a Regularly Scheduled meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the City Hall Conference Room, 405 South Seguin. During its May 13 meeting, the EDC Board passed and approved a resolution that will result in a \$1.2 million contribution to the City of Converse's match to the \$8.4 million Metropolitan Planning

Organization's project to widen South Seguin/FM 1516 from FM 78 to FM 1976. The project is being implemented by the Texas Department of Transportation. The expansion project will widen FM 1516 from two lanes to four lanes with a turn lane, sidewalks and bike lanes and would create a new railroad crossing across the Union Pacific Railroad. The City Council is scheduled to vote on proceeding with the Certificates of Obligation to create the match on May 20. Once approved by Council, the EDC would enter into an agreement to pay down the \$1.2 million contribution over 20 years.

Want to keep up-to-date with the EDC?

Just send your email address by text message:

Text  
**CONVERSEEDC**  
to **22828** to get started.



The EDC Board also received and approved the Audit for FY 2013. The EDC revenues exceeded budget by \$118,700 and expenditures were under budget by \$316,154. Total revenues were \$885,586; total expenditures were \$612,890; resulting in a net change in fund balance of \$272,696. With the prior year fund balance of \$1,365,933, the fund balance at the end of FY 2013 was \$1,638,629. The EDC also approved entering into a contract with The Retail Coach, a firm that works with communities to recruit retail to improve quality of life for residents. The Retail Coach has successfully worked with a number of Texas cities including Bastrop, New Braunfels and Leander to recruit retail to those communities.

The Converse EDC receives its revenues from the proceeds of the ½ cent sales tax passed and approved by the voters in 2000. The funds can be used for projects that promote or expand new business for Converse as well as certain community development projects as authorized by State law. For more information, contact the Converse EDC at (210) 659-9163 or [info@converseedc.com](mailto:info@converseedc.com).

## Police Department – 658-2322

As the school year draws to a close, everyone looks forward to the summer! Most of the summer consists of friends, family and fun, but it can also mean more criminal activity.

Watch for children playing outside, riding their bicycles in the roadway, and hanging out in the neighborhoods.

It's true that anyone can become a victim of crime, but there are some very basic things that you can do to deter criminals from choosing you as their target.

Make your neighborhood a secure area. Get to know your neighbors and watch out for each other. Learn their habits, hours, vehicles, and contact information. Use lighting at night and keep those bushes around your home trimmed. Remember to lock your vehicles and homes, removing valuables from view.



Call to report any suspicious activity, even if the situation seems insignificant to you at the time

**Converse Police Department at 210-658-2322.**

Please Help Converse Police Department to make our city safe for everyone.



## Building - 658-8285

The Converse Building Department (CBD) would like to remind all residents that construction and renovation permits are required for most home improvements including but not limited to swimming pools (above ground included), re-roofs, enclosing garages, installation of siding and fences, plumbing and electrical repairs such as replacing water heaters, water softeners or heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) units. CBD will conduct inspections to ensure compliance with our building codes which are a measure of protection to ensure that safe and sound construction practices are the standard for Converse. We recommend that you secure quotes from at least three (3) contractors before signing an agreement, secure at least a one (1) year written warranty and **never provide funds prior to the completion and final acceptance of the work.**

You may contact the CBD to ensure your Contractor is licensed and eligible to obtain permits within the City of Converse. Permits must be posted on the job site and visible from the street. Please contact the CBD at 658-8285 for questions or to obtain a current list of contractors that are licensed to work in Converse. If you are concerned about construction activities in your neighborhood and do not see a permit posted, please call the CBD. Visit us at [www.conversetx.net](http://www.conversetx.net) for forms, fees or information. Please be mindful that our offices are closed from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm for lunch, Monday through Friday.





## STARS & STRIPES OVER Converse

July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>  
CONVERSE PARK NORTH

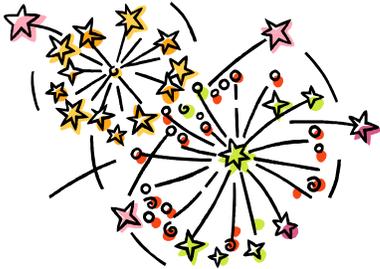
FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY  
MUSIC, FOOD, BEVERAGES, and CARNIVAL

### TIMES:

Thursday, July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	5pm – Midnight
Friday, July 4 <sup>th</sup>	12n - Midnight
Saturday, July 5 <sup>th</sup>	12n – 1:00 am
Sunday, July 6 <sup>th</sup>	1pm – 10 pm

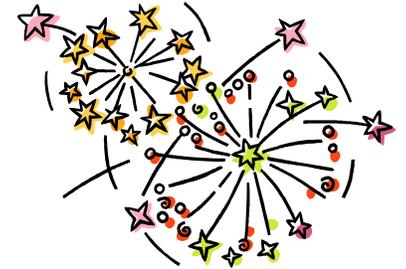
### Music:

Thursday, July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	TOP 40
Friday, July 4 <sup>th</sup>	ROCK/OLDIES
Saturday, July 5 <sup>th</sup>	COUNTRY
Sunday, July 6 <sup>th</sup>	TEJANO



### FIREWORK SPECTACULAR

10-12 MINUTE FIREWORK SHOW  
ACCOMPANIED BY MUSIC



## CITY CONTACT INFORMATION

*The City of Converse Operating Hours are  
Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.*

### City Hall

*Administrative*  
(210) 658-5356

### Utilities

*Including Storm Water*  
(210) 658-3453

### Public Works

*Streets, Parks, Grounds*  
(210) 659-9513

### Economic Development

(210) 659-9163

### Building

(210) 658-8285

### Library

(210) 659-4160

### Water Billing

(210) 658-1965

### Fire

(210) 658-8900

### Municipal Court

(210) 658-8021

### Police

(210) 658-2322

**You can subscribe to the newsletter at [www.conversetx.net](http://www.conversetx.net) to receive each new issue, in color, by email. This will keep you informed more quickly and help the City save paper!**



**BUY CONVERSE!!**  
**Welcome our new businesses!**  
**We're Growing Places!**

- China Express – August 2013
- Big Lots- September 2013
- Best Little Gift Shop in Town – October 2013
- Rehoboth Health Network & Family Dentistry- March 2014
- Nat G CNG Solutions – January 2014
- Under the Sea – February 2014
- The Original Sweet Spot – February 2014
- Great Clips – February 2014
- Days Bar-B-Que – April 2014
- Custom Cerakote, LLC – April 2014
- Edwards & Wilson LLC – April 2014
- Lai Sinh – March 2014
- Great Finds Resale – January 2014
- Process Solutions Integration – February 2014
- Santin Automotive – February 2014
- Subway – June 2014



**The New Faces of Converse**

**Holly Nagy– City Secretary– August 2013.**

Holly comes to the beautiful city of Converse from Philadelphia, PA. She has an extensive municipal government background and is excited to assist the residents of Converse.

In her relocation she brings her wonderful husband, three beautiful children and 2 wacky dogs.

**Derika Bailey - Library Director– April 2014.**

Derika is a Texan from the neighboring city of San Antonio. She has her Master of Library Science from the University of North Texas and her Master of Public Administration from the University of Texas San Antonio.

Derika has years of experience working in public and academic libraries. She loves reading all types of genres and is looking forward to starting up some Book Clubs for the citizens of Converse! She also has a large family; with husband, three children, four furry ones and a hermit crab named Batman.

The Water Distribution Department is diligently working toward controlling all city leaks as we are currently observing Stage 3 water restrictions. For more information on Stage 3, please visit the City of Converse website at [www.conversetx.net](http://www.conversetx.net). Help conserve all water resources. We also encourage all residents to report any observed leaks or restriction violations by calling the Converse Utility Billing Department at 210-658-1965 or the Utilities Department at 210-658-3453.



The Wastewater Department is currently working with San Antonio River Authority (S.A.R.A.) with the ongoing Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) problem. We have started the I&I project within the Placid Mobile Home Park using the new Sewer Crawler, a 6 wheeled drive color camera that is navigated through the sewer mains looking for roots and cracks in the pipe. We are also replacing every manhole lid gasket that shows signs of rain water leaking through the lid and re-setting manholes has needed. In addition, please make sure that all clean out caps on your property have a water tight seal to prevent any debris or rain water runoff from entering the sewer mains.

The Water Production Department is committed to the water quality of the Converse community. This department performs sampling, monitoring and enforcement to prevent environmental pollution. Since the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) is the main source of water, anything put down the drain or that enters the storm drains could re-enter the water cycle. We will continue to provide the best quality of water to all citizens. A vital part of Converse's future is clean water.

## **CITY OF CONVERSE STORM WATER DEPARTMENT Working For A Clean & Safe Environment.**



“The City of Converse Storm Water Department is now in its sixth year. The City has finish working on our second five year permit in May 2014. Over the last year the city has mapped out the rest of the cities outfalls and inlet storm water system adding the new subdivisions as they are completed. The Storm Water did over 725 inspections on construction sites this year, repaired five drainage ditches’ this year and assisted 12 residents’ with drainage problems on their property. The city got only 6 1/10 inches of rain this year as of May13, 2014. The City of Converse marked the cities inlet system with storm drain markers saying

**NO DUMPING DRAINS TO CREEK.** The Storm Water Department also did inspections to see what repairs are needed to be done to insure good water flow. The city has also updated its web site with information to help its citizens have a healthy and safe home and environment. There are also education flyers in all city buildings for your benefit to help the environment. The City of Converse has a great deal of work to do in keeping our city safe for its Citizens and the environment so please do your part to help. If you see illegal dumping please call Converse Police Department at 658-2322 your help is needed. For more information please check out the city’s website or call 658-3453 for the Storm Water Department. Again, we are all in this together and the City of Converse thanks you for your help and support. It is illegal to dump trash or debris over your fence in to the drainages. **REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING.** The fines for illegal dumping in the City of Converse are up to \$500.00 a day for each offense. If any one or group would like to have a roadside clean up please contact the Storm Water Department at 658-3453 and ask for Larry Moxley the city could use your help. Let’s keep the City of Converse safe and clean for the environment.

# Let's Tackle the Grease in This Kitchen!

## Why should I help?

- Prevent grease buildups from blocking sewer lines.
- Stop sewer overflows into streets and storm drains.
- Save money spent on costly cleanups of sewage spills.
- Reduce the number of times you have to clean your grease trap (food service).
- Protect the quality of our water.

## DO!



- ✓ Put oil and grease in covered collection containers.



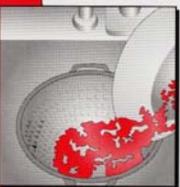
- ✓ Scrape food scraps from dishes into trash cans and garbage bags and dispose of properly. Avoid using your garbage disposal.



- ✓ Remove oil and grease from dishes, pans, fryers, and griddles. Cool first before you skim, scrape, or wipe off excess grease.



- ✓ Prewash dishes and pans with cold water before putting them in the dishwasher.



- ✓ Cover kitchen sink with catch basket and empty into garbage can as needed.



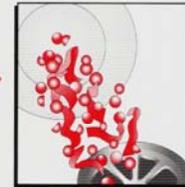
- ✓ Cover floor drain with fine screen and empty into garbage can as needed.

## DON'T!

- ✗ Don't pour oil and grease down the drain.

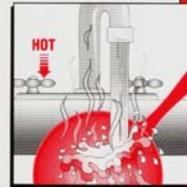


- ✗ Don't put food scraps down the drain.



- ✗ Don't run water over dishes, pans, fryers, and griddles to wash oil and grease down the drain.

- ✗ Don't rinse off oil and grease with hot water.



## More Ways to Tackle Grease

- ▶ Use environmentally safe cleaning products instead of harsh detergents or cleaners that can damage sewer lines.
- ▶ If you generate large amounts of used cooking oil, reuse or recycle it. To find a recycler, check the phone book under "recyclers" or "rendering companies."
- ▶ If you generate small amounts of used cooking oil, reuse it as often as possible and then pour it into a container you can throw away. Never pour it down the drain.
- ▶ Start a compost pile at your home with scraps that are not meat. Find out about composting in the TCEQ publication, *A Green Guide to Yard Care* (GI-028).



For more information, contact the  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)  
Small Business & Local Government Assistance Section  
1-800-447-2827 • [www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us)



# SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2014

- Register as early as June 6th
- All programs will be held every Friday @ 2pm
  - Most programs are geared for ages 5-12
- Parents must accompany children to the events
- Kick-Off Summer Reading Party is June 13th
- End of Summer Reading Party is August 8th
- Everyone who turns in a completed reading log receives a prize!



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!



## 2014 Summer Library Program Fizz, Boom, Read! Library Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in September: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One:    Independent Reader    Family Reader

Completed Program:     Yes     No

**Please complete and cut out the registration form and return it to the Library!**